Title: Introduction of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001

14.32 hrs.

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 6 Shri Pramod Mahajan.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ganesh Chaturthi is tomorrow. Lakhs of People will perform the Ganesh Pooja in Maharashtra tomorrow and therefore we had requested for a parliamentary holiday. This is a very big festival which is celebrated in the entire world.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give a notice for holiday for tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give notice for tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 21.8.2001.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill enhancing the salaries of Members of Parliament...*(Interruptions)* We are incompetent to legislate on this subject when the country is passing through starvation deaths...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Lakhs of People celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in Maharashtra....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: He cannot make a speech at the introductory stage....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you are well aware of the rules. At this stage, the legislative competence of the measure is to be opposed and not the merit of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When the country is passing through starvation deaths, we are incompetent to legislate such a legislation. The Supreme Court has already directed the Government to give rice to the rural people. When that precedent is there, we have no right to legislate on a wage hike. It is immoral, improper and highly objectionable. I, therefore, oppose the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to give reply to the objection raised by the hon. Member?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have nothing to say. This Act has been amended 24 times. The Parliament is well within its legislative competence to enact this law.

Regarding the other observations made by the hon. Member, I do not want to refer to the same at this stage because they are not relevant for my introducing the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I introduce* the Bill.

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir tomorrow is Ganesh Chaturthi, Lakhs of people celebrate this festival and so tomorrow should be a parliamentary holiday....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, you can take it up tomorrow. You give notice for raising this matter in the 'Zero Hour' tomorrow. Please take your seat now.